

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (new): A guard device which is removably mounted on an escalator handrail, the guard device comprising:

a guide channel formed at its bottom to receive a part of the handrail positioned in the entry zone of the escalator.

Claim 11 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a sterilization unit provided therein, to sterilize the handrail received in the guide channel.

Claim 12 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 11, wherein the sterilization unit includes at least one ultraviolet lamp to irradiate ultraviolet lights to the handrail.

Claim 13 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 12, wherein the sterilization unit includes an applying means to apply bactericidal liquid to the handrail.

Claim 14 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising an advertising display provided on a front face thereof to face forward.

Claim 15 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 14, wherein the advertising display includes any one selected from a group consisting of an LED, an LCD, an organic EL sheet and a hologram.

Claim 16 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the advertising display is covered with a transparent sheet to protect the display surface of the advertising display against an environment.

Claim 17 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 11, further comprising an air-cleaning unit provided at a side wall thereof to draw air in the entry zone of the escalator, eliminate bacteria and dust from the air, and discharge the cleaned air outside the guard device.

Claim 18 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 11, wherein the guard device has a length corresponding to a distance between a front end of the handrail and a front edge of the foremost step of the escalator.

Claim 19 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 14, further comprising an air-cleaning unit provided at a side wall thereof to draw air in the entry zone of the escalator, eliminate bacteria and dust from the air, and discharge the cleaned air outside the guard device.

Claim 20 (new): The guard device as set forth in claim 14, wherein the guard device has a length corresponding to a distance between a front end of the handrail and a front edge of the foremost step of the escalator.